

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

BASEBALL AND BAR-B-Q RESTAURANTEUR HELPED BRING MET STADIUM TO BLOOMINGTON

WHEN NOT RUNNING one of his two Bar-B-Q restaurants, Aleck “Smokey” Ellis kept busy by helping the community he loved. Ellis served on the boards of a variety of Bloomington organizations, including the Bloomington Community Bank.



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Vikings.

“My father was always very civic-minded,” daughter Pat Lambros said. “He knew everyone in the community and was so involved he’d even hold meetings at the restaurant.”

Ellis, who immigrated to Minnesota from Greece in 1915, opened his second Smokey Point restaurant near what is now I-494. Yet his biggest claim to fame is most certainly the role he played in bringing Metropolitan Stadium to Bloomington.

“In 1953 he went to Milwaukee with a lawyer and group of bankers to

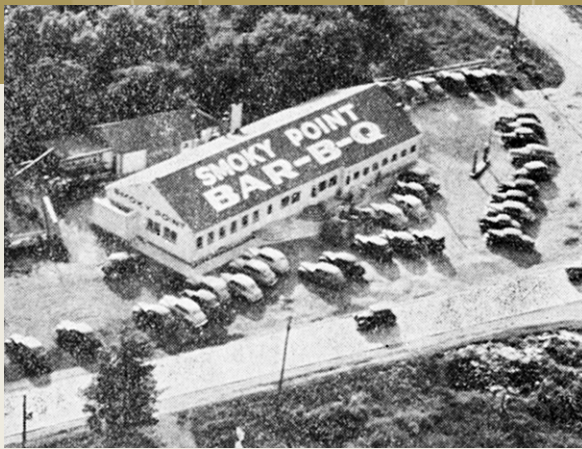


Photo courtesy of Pat Lambros.

study plans for the stadium,” Lambros said. “It was his idea to put it across the street from the restaurant.”

Lambros said having the stadium right across the street from the Smokey Point made it easy for Ellis to enjoy his box seats.

In 1962, a year before his death, Ellis sold his property to the Decathlon Hotel and Athletic Club. The Radisson Hotel and Water Park occupies the site today.

THE CITY IN YOUR INBOX

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE E-MAIL UPDATES ON CITY NEWS AND EVENTS

THE CITY IS CONSTANTLY searching for ways to communicate with residents using the latest technological tools available. These tools are more than just an information exchange, but are moving the City toward its goal to become more sustainable. Always on the cutting edge, in 1996, Bloomington was one of the first governments in the nation to introduce a website. As technology evolved, so did the City’s website, affording residents more ways to stay informed.

It was this time last year that the City of Bloomington launched *Ask the City*, an online customer service system that provides residents an easier way to ask a question, report a complaint and get a resolution quickly. *Ask the City* has answered nearly 3,000 questions and service requests since its inception and today boasts 2,700 registered users. In addition, more than 100 visitors browse its pages daily.

The face of communications keeps changing. The City is keeping pace with



With E-Subscribe you choose the topics that interest you and the City will send e-mails when new information is added to our website.

technology by unveiling a new communications tool to make staying in touch with your community faster and easier than ever. Important City news and happenings are now available through a free electronic subscription service called E-Subscribe. Residents can sign up to receive e-mail information and wireless alerts on an expanding list of subjects, including City news, police alerts, health news, facility closures, development and transportation updates, seasonal and full-time job opportunities, and more. For example, want to find out if a snow emergency has been declared in the city? Simply sign up for snow emergency alerts. Would you like to know when a construction project is scheduled for completion? Sign up for changes to the

development directory. Every visitor will have the ability to build a “My Bloomington” profile of specific information they wish to receive by e-mail.

To subscribe to this service, you will need an e-mail address. Your address will only be used to provide you with the content you have requested or to give you access to your own profile of subscriptions, which can be password protected.

To register for e-mail alerts, visit E-Subscribe, accessible from the homepage of the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us. For more information, call Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or e-mail jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

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RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOPS

LEARN ECO-FRIENDLY TIPS



THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON and Lower Minnesota River Watershed District are hosting two rain garden workshops for residents, **Thursdays, May 7 and May 21, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** Facilitated by nonprofit gardening organization Metro Blooms and local landscape ecologist Rusty Schmidt, the workshops will take place in the Bloomington Public Works building, 1700 West 98th Street. Master Gardeners will also be on hand to answer all your gardening questions.

To register, visit www.metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426.

SHARING THE RIDE CITY COMMUTERS USE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION



A RECENT SURVEY FOUND that Bloomington is among the seven west metro communities with the highest share of commuters using alternative means of transportation for their work trip. In Bloomington, one in five commuters uses a means of transportation such as transit, carpooling, bicycling or walking. The data, collected through a 2007 U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, covers 41 cities in the Twin Cities region with populations of 20,000 or higher. These communities represent 78 percent of the region’s total population.

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The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.
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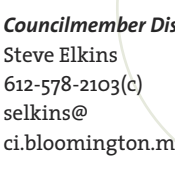


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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; (952)563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN THE FOREFRONT
ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION KEEP RESIDENTS AND VISITORS SAFE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

RECENTLY ATTENDED my seventh Food Safety Awards ceremony. It is a wonderful event that always reminds me of how fortunate we are in Bloomington to have such a professional Environmental Health Division.

For more than 40 years Environmental Health has conducted regular inspections of more than 450 food facilities, in addition to inspecting rental housing, public pools, well sealing/construction and lodging facilities. The Division also responds to community nuisances, such as complaints regarding noise, toxic materials, and air and water pollution.

One very important aspect of Environmental Health is the food safety program, which is second to none. In fact, Bloomington is the only city in the state that has the authority to conduct epidemiological investigations into outbreaks of foodborne illnesses. Other cities rely on the county or state.

In January 2009, Environmental Health staff checked grocery stores, convenience markets and restaurants in Bloomington and Richfield looking for potentially tainted peanut butter

products – going above and beyond the state and federal recommendations to ensure the recall message was received and followed.

According to Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore, inspecting food establishments for recalled products is nothing new for her staff, albeit most recalls are on a much smaller scale.

As part of its foodborne illness monitoring program, the state requires that Environmental Health reports findings of foodborne illnesses. On the local level, the Division has trained staff who investigates foodborne illnesses and reports findings to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Another important Environmental Health service is swimming pool safety. The City licenses 176 public swimming pools and spas and the Division works with pool operators on construction guidelines, plan reviews and routine inspections. Environmental Health ensures the proper safeguards are in place to keep pools not only clean, but safe.

In May 2008, the Abigail Taylor Pool Safety Act became state law. The law is named for 6-year-old Abigail who sat on

an uncovered wading pool drain in June 2007 and later died of complications from her injuries.

The first phase of the act required all public pools less than four feet deep to have an anti-entrapment feature installed by January 1, 2009. The second phase of the act requires all pools greater than four feet deep to meet the same safety drain requirements and is effective on January 1, 2011. Environmental Health has been actively communicating the new law’s requirements to public pool owners, while conducting routine inspections, on-site surveys and following up with phone calls and mailings to pool license holders.

Through education and communication, the City is able to improve safety for everyone. For more information, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934, or visit our website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Environmental Health.

TO P.R.O.T.E.C.T. AND SERVE
CREATING A SUBURBAN MODEL FOR INTELLIGENCE-LED POLICING

A NEW INITIATIVE in proactive policing is being used by the Bloomington Police Department. Proactive Response Objectives to Emerging Crime Trends (PROTECT) aims to sharpen the focus of police activities and serve as the model for intelligence-driven policing.

The information sharing begins every Tuesday morning. That’s when Chief Jeffrey Potts and the Commanders of the Patrol and Investigation Divisions along with members of the Proactive Police Services Unit, Community Response Enforcement Unit, Crimes against Persons/Property Crimes Units, dispatch personnel and two patrol sergeants, sit down and pore over the city’s criminal activity from the previous week. They discuss crime statistics, repeat offenders and other areas of concern. What they come up with is invaluable: a solid game plan that includes objectives for the week and special areas of focus for the entire department.



“What we’re doing is identifying strategies to improve quality of life for residents,” Potts said. “Whether it’s a traffic issue or a string of home break-ins, we want to have a proactive response that puts everyone on the same course to solving the problem.”

According to Chief Potts, the information-sharing has extended to other City staff, including members of Environmental Health and Legal, who work together to make sure problem properties are in compliance.

With the help of the City’s Information Services Division, software has been developed to help officers track addresses in the city that are identified as PROTECT addresses. Installed on all patrol car computers, PROTECT allows police to quickly access information on an address where a crime has occurred, including photos of the property’s occupants and notes from other police officers.

For more information, visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Investigations.

FOR THE HOMEOWNER

UNDERSTANDING PROPERTY VALUES AND TAXES

HOME VALUES IN BLOOMINGTON have dipped along with the national housing market. The median home value in Bloomington for the 2009 assessment fell to \$228,600, just below the 2006 median home value of \$242,800 the prior year. Values have fallen for two consecutive years, following a significant increase in value earlier this decade. *See chart below right.*

2009 Hennepin County Property Tax Statements

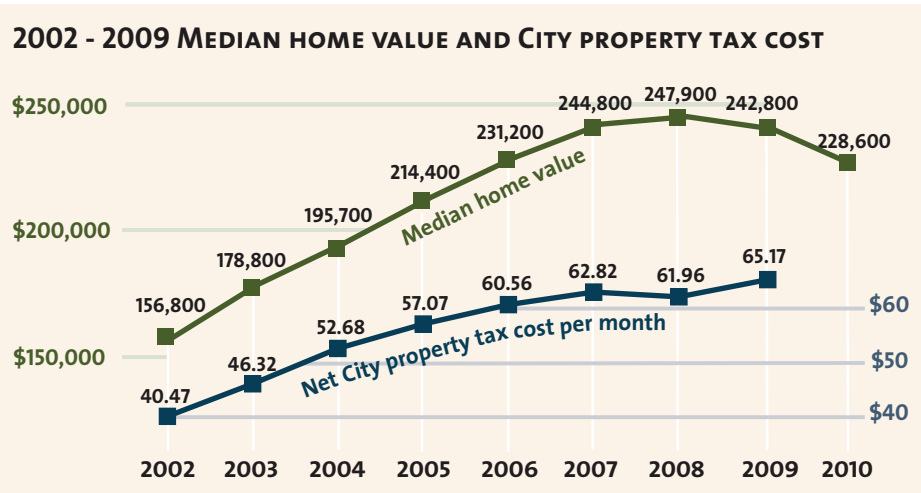
In early March, Hennepin County mailed tax statements for 2009, which are based on a property’s estimated market value as of January 2, 2008. In accordance with state law, this 2008 value reflected sales occurring from October 2006 to September 2007. Consequently, when you pay your 2009 property tax bill, the valuation is already as much as two years old. More recent sales activity is reflected in your 2009 market value for taxes payable in 2010.

City of Bloomington 2009 market Value notices (for 2010 taxes)

The City of Bloomington recently mailed market value notices for January 2, 2009, which are determined by analyzing home sales that occurred from October 2007 to September 2008 and will be used in calculating property taxes payable in 2010. Home sales

occurring after September 2008 will be reflected in the 2010 assessment. This approach to property values and taxes is mandated by law.

For more information, visit our website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Property taxes, or contact Chief Residential Appraiser Mark Anderson at 952-563-8706.



**Although the net City property tax cost per month was estimated to be \$64.81 in February, changes in the City's tax capacity resulted in a final cost of \$65.17.*

PROTECTING HOMEBUYERS
TIME-OF-SALE INSPECTIONS



TO ASSIST BUYERS AND HELP ensure a smooth sale, all single- and two-family dwellings, condominiums, townhouses and mobile homes are required to have an inspection prior to being listed for sale. The inspection report must be available for review during the time the home is offered for sale.

The Time-of-Sale Program provides potential purchasers with information about the condition and code compliance of a dwelling and requires correction of immediate hazards. The evaluator will examine the dwelling’s visible structural elements and other construction components, such as heating, electrical and plumbing systems. Accessible unoccupied areas, such as attics and crawl spaces, will also be viewed. No building components are taken apart during inspection.

People preparing to sell their houses may have the inspection performed by a City inspector for \$185 or choose from a list of licensed independent evaluators.

For more information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Time of Sale, or call 952-563-8930.



MAKE YOUR HOME SHINE
GRANT AND LOAN FUNDS FOR IMPROVING FORECLOSED HOMES

IF YOU ARE PURCHASING or have purchased a foreclosed home within the last 12 months, you may be eligible to receive up to \$20,000 to make improvements to your newly purchased property.

Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is currently accepting applications for a home improvement program designed to improve the condition of foreclosed homes in Bloomington. Available grant and loan funds can be used for new siding, windows, roofing or other needed improvements.

One half of the original borrowed amount will not have to be repaid if the recipient lives in the home for five years after receiving the loan. The remaining half will accrue interest at an annual rate of 5 percent for a period of 10 years and will not have to be repaid until the property is no longer the borrower’s principle place of residence, or the owner sells or transfers the title.

For more information, call 952-563-8937 or visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: HRA. To get the latest updates from HRA, register online for E-Subscribe.

TREES BRING NATURE HOME
CITY TREE SALE TO TAKE PLACE IN MAY

EACH YEAR, THE CITY PLANTS TREES in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington’s urban forest continues to be one of the community’s treasures. The City has planted more

than 1,000 trees over the last few years. Most of the 900 diseased elm and oak trees marked for removal last year were located on residential lots. To increase the number of trees on private

properties, Park Maintenance holds a public tree sale. Based on last year’s sales of 280 trees, 300 trees will be for sale this spring. Species of trees available include: *Autumn Blaze Red Maple*, *Hackberry*, *Imperial Honey Locust*, *Northwoods Red Maple*, *Prairie Fire Crabapple*, *Snowdrift Crabapple* and *River Birch*.

Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Trees are not guaranteed. To download the form, visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Tree sale.

For more information, call the Maintenance Division at 952-563-8760.



CUTTING BACK
XCEL ENERGY TRIMS TREES TO IMPROVE SERVICE

OCCASIONAL TREE TRIMMING is necessary for Xcel Energy to continue to provide uninterrupted electrical service to all of its customers. Xcel Energy recently conducted tree trimming in Bloomington. Xcel saves costs by trimming to a level that will ensure no re-trimming is needed in the near future.

The location, type and age of a tree and the type of electrical line dictate how much trimming is necessary or if tree removal is required.

For more information, contact Xcel Energy at 1-800-895-4999.



TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are not guaranteed.*

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Fill in number of each tree type desired. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

_____ <i>Autumn Blaze Red Maple</i>	_____ Hackberry
_____ <i>Imperial Honey Locust</i>	_____ <i>Northwoods Red Maple</i>
_____ <i>Prairie Fire Crabapple</i>	_____ <i>River Birch</i>
_____ <i>Snowdrift Crabapple</i>	

Total trees _____ X \$50 ea. = \$ _____ Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 2, 9 - 11 a.m.**

Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance,
1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.



CURBSIDE CLEANUP

QUESTIONS?
CALL 952-563-8750.

BE SURE YOU'RE PREPARED by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your pickup day. To prevent people from stealing copper and releasing hazardous chemicals into the air, please do not set appliances on the curb until the morning of your collection day. Remember, trucks will go through only once.

2009 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

This year's cleanup will go from the west to the east.

Saturday, April 18	West boundary to Normandale
Saturday, April 25	Normandale to France
Saturday, May 2	France to Penn
Saturday, May 9	Penn to Portland
Saturday, May 16	Portland to East boundary

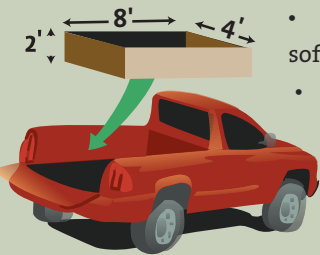
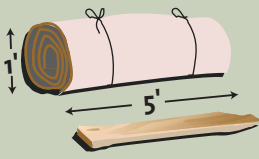
NEW THIS YEAR!

On the Thursday before your pickup, Bridging will come through neighborhoods to collect useable items.

ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

Please be considerate; haulers can not spend more than a few minutes at each house in order to complete the routes.

- General junk:** Boxed, bagged or bundled – under 100 pounds per item.
- Appliances:** Water heaters, microwaves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, etc. Limit TWO appliances per house. **No need to call ahead. NO electronics.**
- Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter – larger rolls are hard to handle.
- Larger scrap metal ONLY:** Office desks, clothesline poles and swing sets are examples. Remove wood, rubber, cement and all nonmetal materials, including gas from lawnmowers. NO cast iron tubs or items over 150 pounds. Take items that fit into an automobile to the Hennepin County Problem Waste Facility for recycling. *See box below.*



- Unusable furniture:** Disassemble hideaway sofa beds so they cannot open during handling.
- Mattresses/box springs.**
- Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. Bend nails.

NO railroad ties. NO contractor materials.

- BUNDLED brush:** Branches smaller than four inches in diameter and five feet in length. Includes buckthorn.

PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING AND PROTECT AIR QUALITY

Window air conditioners and dehumidifiers set out at the curb are targets for people who take copper wire from appliances to sell. It is illegal to cut the copper wire in appliances because it releases toxic pollutants, such as Freon, into the air. To help prevent illegal dumping and protect air quality, do not set out appliances that contain Freon until 7 a.m. on the day of your pickup. For more information, call Public Works at 952-563-8751.

OPTIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

HENNEPIN COUNTY PROBLEM WASTE AND RECYCLING FACILITY

1400 West 96th Street, 612-348-3777

TU, TH, F	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
W	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
SA	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Hazardous waste:** Paints, motor oil, solvents and other household chemicals.
- Tires and batteries.**
- Electronics:** TVs, VCRs, computers, monitors, stereos and cordless phones.
- Recyclable materials:** Plastic and glass bottles, cans and all paper.
- Gas-powered, refrigeration appliances:** Camper/other fridges, air conditioners – call ahead, 612-348-5832.
- Small scrap metal** that fits into a car trunk.
- Nonrefillable propane or butane cylinders.**



BURNSVILLE LANDFILL
952-890-3248

- Concrete, bricks.
- Porcelain: Tubs, sinks, toilets.
- Shingles.

NSP COMPOSTING
Burnsville, 952-736-1915

- Leaves, grass clippings, sod.
- Stumps, logs.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



EARTH ACTION HERO BRIDGING'S FURNITURE BRIGADE

I F BRIDGING HAD A MOTTO it would be, "Helping people improve their quality of life one chair at a time." Visit Bridging's 100,000 square-foot warehouse on West 87th Street and you'll see why. They have more chairs, dressers and tables in one warehouse than you're likely to see on a visit to any furniture outlet. Most of the furniture, roughly 60 percent, is donated by residents. The other 40 percent is donated by businesses. Bridging has six trucks serving its two locations in Bloomington and Roseville that are used to pick up donations.

Some furniture is even handmade by volunteers, such as the gentleman pictured below. In 2008, Bridging partnered with the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility to build chairs. It was a win/win situation. Prisoners learned valuable skills while building nearly 2,000 dining chairs for Bridging, at the cost of just \$5 per chair. Volunteers also built 1,800 dressers at a cost of just \$35 per piece.

In total, Bridging estimates that it recycles more than 100,000 items annually, equaling 5,550 tons of furniture that would otherwise be tossed in a landfill. Where does all the furniture go? According to Executive Director Ron Osterbauer, *see photo above*, Bridging serves about 130



Ron Osterbauer put together a table.

low-income families per week, all referred by local social service, nonprofit and church organizations.

"Each household receives an average of \$2,000 in furniture and household goods," Osterbauer said. "This is a one-time deal for people. We rely on our community partners' knowledge of the client and their situation to ensure they are eligible."

Bridging also relies heavily on its volunteers. One volunteer, Bloomington resident John Kleszcz, is a retired pilot. He's been working at Bridging for seven years.

"I mostly do minor furniture repairs, but I'm also a woodcarver," Kleszcz said. "I guess I'm a handy guy, but I really just enjoy doing something that helps others."

Bridging only accepts donations of good quality items, although they will fix a loose screw or broken table leg if a piece of furniture is in good condition. For more information or to make a donation, call Bridging at 952-888-1105 or visit www.bridging.org.



UNCLUTTER YOUR WORLD

SIMPLIFY LIFE WITH CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

HERE ARE THREE SIMPLE WAYS to unclutter your home and clean up for spring: Set items out for the Curbside Cleanup, *see article left*; donate quality items to a local charity, *see article above*; or sell your unwanted treasures at the Citywide Garage Sales.

The Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation, with the support of Human Services, will hold the 2009 Bloomington Citywide Garage Sales, **Thursday, May 28 - Saturday, May 30**. To advertise your garage sale on the official 2009 list, you will need to pay \$15; \$20 for a listing and yard sign.

Copies of the Citywide Garage Sales list are available for \$2 each through the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation. Lists will also be available on the City's website shortly before May 28. For more information, call the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation at 952-831-3798.



PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

ALL THUNDERSTORMS ARE DANGEROUS BUSINESS

DID YOU KNOW that in the U.S. an average of 300 people are injured and 80 people are killed each year by lightning? Although most lightning victims survive, people often suffer long-term, debilitating symptoms.

Dangers associated with thunderstorms include an increased possibility of tornadoes, strong winds, hail and flash flooding. Flash flooding is responsible for more than 140 fatalities annually – more than any other thunderstorm-related hazard.

A little preparation can go a long way to reduce your risk of being injured during a thunderstorm. To prepare, follow these tips:

- Remove dead trees and branches that could fall and cause injury and damage during a severe thunderstorm.
- Secure all outdoor objects that may blow away in strong winds.
- Get inside a house or a hard-topped automobile. (Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than out.)



- Close and secure all windows.
 - Avoid showering or bathing. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
 - Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners.
 - Use a battery-operated radio for updates from local officials.
- For more information, contact Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.

WITH SENIORS IN MIND

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

OLDER ADULTS OPT TO STAY IN FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS



BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH offers services to make it easier for Bloomington seniors to live safely in their homes.

Public Health Nurse and Senior Services Supervisor Sue Sheridan said moving is not always the best option for seniors.

“Some adult children want their parents to move to senior housing so they won’t be alone and isolated in their homes,” Sheridan said. “However, some seniors think moving away from the familiar surroundings of home is more isolating.”

The number of Bloomington residents faced with this situation is growing. According to the U.S. Census, people over 65 years of age increased 50 percent from 1990 to 2000. More than one quarter of these seniors live alone. Sheridan and other public health nurses meet with Bloomington families at no cost to coordinate services to help seniors stay safely in their homes.

Anyone with concerns about an elderly person can make a referral for a public health nurse home visit and may remain anonymous. For more information, call Public Health at 952-563-8900.

HOUSING AND TECHNOLOGY EXPO

RESOURCES FOR ACTIVE, AGING ADULTS

HUMAN SERVICES WILL host a Housing and Technology Expo on **Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. This free event will include information on housing, in-home services and demonstrations of innovative technologies for keeping the mind and body active. A special seminar on caregiving will also be featured. Registration not required.



HONORING OLDER AMERICANS

CITY RECOGNIZES RESIDENTS

DURING NATIONAL Older Americans Month in May, residents will be recognized for the many ways they have enriched Bloomington through their wisdom, character and talents. The City will work with community partners to offer special programs throughout the month. Call *Ask the City* or visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Older Americans Month.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

TOOLS TO HELP FAMILIES CONNECT



THE LET’S TALK TIN, created by

Bloomington Public Health, is a valuable tool to help parents have meaningful conversations with their children, especially during mealtimes.

“Frequent family meals nurture feelings of connectedness,” tin creator Denise Reese said. “Research shows youth are less likely to experience emotional distress, substance abuse, violence and early sexual involvement when families eat together.”

Each tin includes a collection of questions, some fun, some more serious, on topics like alcohol, drugs, relationships and bullying. Let’s Talk Tins can be purchased for \$5 by calling 952-563-8904.

For more information, visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Let’s Talk Tins.

TEENS AND ALCOHOL DON’T MIX

TAKING STEPS TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING

RESearch SHOWS that underage drinking increases during graduation and prom season. It also shows that the strongest predictor of kids not using alcohol is the belief that their parents will be upset if they do – that’s why talking to teens about not using alcohol is so important.



It’s vital that parents and guardians not provide or condone alcohol use by teens at parties and that they monitor and secure liquor at home. Studies show that early alcohol use causes long-lasting harm to a child’s brain and thinking ability. The earlier youth start drinking alcohol, the greater their chances of becoming addicted to alcohol.

For more information, contact Bloomington Public Health at 952-563-8900 or visit Tri-City Partners at www.tricitypartners.org.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS

VALUABLE SERVICES FOR ALL AGES

THE HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION works with the community to provide valuable programs and services to community members of all ages. For more information, call *Ask the City* at 952-563-4957 V/TTY or visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Human Services.

CRAZY, CREATIVE KITES

ANNUAL KITE DAY IS HIGH-FLYING FUN

COME FLY A KITE with the Bloomington Sister City Organization during its annual Kite Day event in celebration of Children’s Day in Japan. Featuring food, entertainment and kites galore, this year’s Kite Day is **Saturday, May 2, 1 - 4 p.m.**, at Valley View Playfields, 90th Street and Portland Avenue. Bring your own kite or pick up a free one at the event. Prizes will be awarded. For more information, call 952-563-8713 or visit www.bloomington-izumi.org.

ATTENTION, KIDS!

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

YOUTH SERVICE DAYS supports youth on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement and educates the public, media and elected officials about the role of youth as community leaders. Human Services coordinates valuable youth service opportunities throughout April. Youth that volunteer for City-sponsored programs will be invited to attend the Mayor’s Volunteer Breakfast. For more information, call *Ask the City* or e-mail kstone@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



WHAT MOTIVATES YOU WORKSHOP

“WORKING ON PURPOSE”

ANSWERING THE ESSENTIAL question, “What makes me get out of bed in the morning?,” becomes more vital to staying healthy as we age and retire.

The workshop *Working on Purpose* is designed for people who want to explore alternatives to the conventional notion of retiring from work. It takes place **Friday, April 24, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Sponsored by Human Services, this one-day event focuses on finding direction in life. A \$145 registration fee includes lunch and materials. For more information, call *Ask the City*.

CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS.

SUMMER SPECTRUM
CHECK OUT THE CHOICES!



BEGINNING MONDAY, JUNE 15, and spanning nine weeks, Summer Spectrum classes focus on youth entering grades K through 9. Classes and camps will be held at Oak Grove Elementary, 1300 West 104th Street, with limited bus transportation available.

The catalog, mailed to the parents of school-age children in Bloomington public schools, is also on our website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Spectrum. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

Summer Spectrum is a collaborative program of Bloomington Public Schools’ Community Education, the City of Bloomington’s Parks and Recreation Division, and the Bloomington Art Center.

Remember, you can now register for programs online from the comfort of home. For more information, visit our website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Program registration.

ADULT SPORTS
BORN AGAIN JOCKS
IT’S SENIOR SOFTBALL TIME

THE BORN AGAIN JOCKS welcome all residents, 55 years and older, of all skill levels and abilities, to join the team. Games are Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting **Tuesday, May 5, 8:45 a.m.**, at Valley View Playfield, 9000 Portland Avenue South. Come anytime. Gloves are available.

For more information, call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814.

ADULT SUMMER SAND
VOLLEYBALL
REGISTRATIONS NOW
UNDERWAY FOR LEAGUES



PARKS AND RECREATION is now accepting registration for Adult Summer Sand Volleyball leagues. Form a team with your friends or co-workers. Leagues are offered in both Co-Rec and

Women’s Divisions. Matches will be scheduled at Dred Scott Playfield beginning Monday, June 1.
When: June 1 - August 13
Where: Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Blmgt. Ferry Road
Cost: \$250/Team + tax.
Deadline: Friday, May 8.

PARKS AND RECREATION

GET YOUR BODY MOVING



SUMMER ACTIVITIES
FUN IN THE SAND, WATER AND SUN – THERE’S
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

SATURDAY, JUNE 13
Bloomington Family Aquatic Center
and Bush Lake Beach open.

MONDAY, JUNE 15
Summer Spectrum classes,
Summer Playground program and
Arts in the Parks series begin.

MONDAY, JULY 20
Camp Kota and Kota Kids begins.



SPLISHIN’ AND A SPLASHIN’
BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

301 East 90th Street

BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER features a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play features, water slides, diving boards, sand volleyball, bathhouse and concession stand.

When: June 13 - August 23 and weekends through Labor Day.
Weekdays: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Weekends: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Holidays: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Cost:	<i>Age</i>	<i>Daily admission</i>	<i>After 5 p.m.</i>
	Under 1 year	Free	Free
	1 - 5 years	\$6.25	\$5.25
	6 - 54 years	\$8.25	\$6.25
	55+ years	\$6.25	\$5.25

AQUA BOOT CAMP
New adult fitness class. Session 1 is Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, June 15 - 29, 10:10 - 10:50 a.m. The cost is \$52.

Season passes	<i>Age</i>	<i>Resident</i>	<i>Non-resident</i>
Child	Under 10 years	\$14.50	\$36.00
Young adult	11 - 15 years	\$24.75	\$46.50
Adult	16 - 54 years	\$45.50	\$68.00
Senior	55+ years	\$14.50	\$36.00

Season passes are available for purchase now through June 5 at the Parks and Recreation counter in Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Purchase passes at the Aquatic Center, June 8 - 12, 4 - 7 p.m., or during regular hours beginning June 13.

Please remember that a parent or guardian must purchase passes for children under 18 years of age and that a driver’s license or state ID is required to verify residency. For more information, call 952-563-8877 or visit our website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Aquatic center.



WATER TOTS OPEN SWIMMING

Open swim time in the zero-depth entry area is available for children, ages 5 and younger, with an adult chaperone, 18 years or older. The program runs **June 22 - August 21**, 8 - 10 a.m., Mondays and Fridays, and 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., weekends and holidays. Admission is \$4.75 per child; chaperones are free.

BUSH LAKE BEACH

9140 E. Bush Lake Road

IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER on a hot summer day than playing at the beach? A daily pass or seasonal parking permit is required for entrance to Bush Lake.

When: June 13 - August 23.
Time: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., M - F;
10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sa - Su and holidays.

Parking permits for Bush Lake Beach are now available for purchase. Cost for parking is \$5 daily or \$27 annually (June through August). For more information, call Parks and Recreation.



SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons are offered at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and Bush Lake. For registration forms, call Parks and Recreation.

AR&LE

ADAPTIVE RECREATION and Learning Exchange Cooperative (AR&LE) offers opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in recreation, leisure and community education programs in Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield. To register for the programs below, call Parks and Recreation or visit our website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Adaptive softball.

ADAPTIVE YOUTH
SOFTBALL

THIS PROGRAM TEACHES basic rules and good sportsmanship in a non-threatening environment. Siblings and parents are invited to volunteer.

Who: Boys and girls with disabilities, ages 10 - 18.
When: Mondays, June 15 - August 10, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Where: Haeg Park, 8301 Penn Ave. S.
Cost: \$50, includes team shirt and photo.



ADAPTIVE ADULT
CO-REC SOFTBALL

COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

COMPETITIVE SOFTBALL is for adults with disabilities who want to play in a competitive league with a strong focus on playing to win. Experience is recommended, but not required.

Who: Adults, 19 and older.
When: Tuesdays, June 16 - August 11, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Where: Haeg Park, 8301 Penn Ave. S.
Cost: \$50, includes team shirt and photo.

RECREATIONAL LEAGUE

RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL is for adults with disabilities who want to meet new friends and play softball.

Who: Adults, 19 and older.
When: Tuesdays, June 9 - August 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Where: Haeg Park, 8301 Penn Ave. S.
Cost: \$50, includes team shirt and photo.



HAVE FUN, GET FIT
NATIONAL SENIOR HEALTH
AND FITNESS DAY

CELEBRATE NATIONAL Senior Health and Fitness Day, **Wednesday, May 27, 9 a.m.**, with a fun walk around Normandale Lake. Afterward, enjoy snacks and entertainment by musical group CC Country.

Where: Normandale Lake, 84th St. and Chalet Road.

Cost: Free of charge.

GET OUT AND ENJOY THE SUN

IT’S TIME TO TEE-OFF AND ENJOY FREE GOLF CLINICS!

WARM WEATHER MEANS IT’S time to get out and play golf. Whether you’re returning to the range from the long winter or entirely new to the sport, stop by Dwan Golf Club, 3301 West 110th Street, or Hyland Greens Golf Course, 10100 Normandale Boulevard, and enjoy plenty of special events and classes all summer long.

To register for Women’s Golf Month or Family Golf Month events, call Hyland Greens Golf Course at 952-563-8868.



MAY
PGA Free Lesson Month
For more information, call PGA professional Ali Hassan at 952-563-8867.

JUNE
Women’s Golf Month
These free golf clinics for women at Hyland Greens Golf Course are each

two hours long. Registration is required.

Fridays, June 5 and 12 6 p.m.
Sundays, June 7 and 14 2 p.m.

JULY
Family Golf Month
Check out this free golf clinic for kids.
Friday, July 10 2 p.m.



PUMP UP YOUR
PEDAL POWER
EXPLORE BIKING OR
WALKING TO WORK

TWO GREAT NEW EVENTS to motivate you to bike to work this spring are being sponsored by 494 Commuter Services.

The *Bicycle Commuting Expo* takes place **Saturday, April 25, 1 - 4 p.m.**, at REI, 750 West American Boulevard. Take advantage of a free bicycle mini-tune-up, bike route planning, commuter clinics and more. Come to the *Bike to Work event*, also at REI, on **Thursday, May 14, 5 - 7 p.m.**, and enjoy a cookout with fellow bicycle commuters.

Challenge your friends and yourself to take the Commuter Challenge. Pledge to bike, walk, carpool or ride the train or bus to work at least once a week and encourage your friends do the same.

For more information, including challenge ideas, go to www.494Corridor.org.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN **BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA** at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City’s website, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Calendar.

EXHIBITIONS

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY



3-D, by Steve Sack.

Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su 1 - 10 p.m.

Art of the Theater, featuring set and costume design by artists Robin McIntyre and Ed Gleeman, runs **April 10 - May 17**. Artists’ reception is April 10, 6 - 8 p.m.

On the Lighter Side, featuring artist Steve Sack, editorial cartoonist for the *Star Tribune* for nearly 30 years, runs **May 28 - June 26**. Artists’ reception is May 28, 6 - 8 p.m. Artists’ talk is June 18, 7 p.m.

BLACK BOX THEATER

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

The black comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace* will be performed **April 30 - May 17**. Tickets are \$17 adults; \$15 students and seniors. For more information, call 952-563-8575.



Cup and Shawl, by Judy Bracci.

ATRIUM GALLERY

Images of the Lost and Found, featuring photographs by artist Judy Bracci, runs **through May 3**.

For all theater tickets, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

THE COLORS OF SPRING

The Bloomington Chorale presents *The Colors of Spring*, featuring Josef Haydn’s *The Creation*, **Saturday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, April 19, 3 p.m.** Tickets are \$14 adults; \$10 students and seniors. For more information, visit www.bloomingtonchorale.com.



THE MUSIC MAN

Bloomington Civic Theater presents *The Music Man*, winner of five Tony Awards, on **May 1 - 31**. Tickets are \$25 adults; \$22 seniors; \$19 students.

MEDALIST CONCERT BAND

Join the Medalist Concert Band for *Divas, Dramas and Other Delights*, **Sunday, May 17, 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 adults; \$8 students and seniors.

NOTE-ABLE SINGERS

If you enjoy swing numbers, show tunes, ballads and tap dancing, then you *gotta* see this. Join the NOTE-Able Singers for *Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance*, **Thursday, June 4, 7:30 p.m.**

TONIC SOL-FA



With just four voices and a tambourine, Tonic Sol-fa is the nation’s top vocal group. See the quartet perform **Friday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$20 adults; \$22 students and seniors.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BLOOMINGTON
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
APRIL FOOLS CONCERT

The Bloomington Symphony Orchestra shows its playful side with lighthearted selections from Bach to Mendelssohn, **Sunday, April 26, 3 p.m.**, at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard.



ANGELICA CANTANTI
SPRING CONCERT

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choir will present *To Sing is to Fly*, **Sunday, May 3, 2:30 p.m.**, at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard. This free concert will feature more than 200 youth singers.

YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS
ANNOUNCED

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choir is holding auditions for students in grades 2 - 12 to participate in the 2009 - 2010 choral season. For an appointment, call 952-563-8572, or visit www.angelicacantanti.org.

EVERYDAY BLOOMINGTON HEROES

IT'S IN OUR HANDS
CREATING A SNAPSHOT OF OUR
COMMUNITY



WHAT HAPPENS EVERY 10 YEARS and only takes 10 minutes to complete? The United States Census. The next census will begin **April 1, 2010**. It is required by law that all U.S. citizens participate. Here are just a few reasons why you should want to take part:

- The census shows how many people are living in cities and neighborhoods and dictates future needs for seniors, youth and workers.
- Each year, \$300 billion in federal and state funds are distributed based on census counts.
- Census data is used by community service organizations to plan services and obtain funding.
- The census creates a snapshot of our country, including where and how we live.

The City of Bloomington Planning Division will be assisting the Census Bureau to ensure that Bloomington address lists are complete and accurate. For more information, go to www.census.gov.

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND
CITIZENS AND POLICE AWARDED FOR
EXTRAORDINARY ACTS

A GROUP OF CITIZENS AND POLICE was recently recognized by the Bloomington Police Department for their heroic and often life-saving actions. Among those honored at the City Council event were Mall of America Security Officer Zachary Buhlman for persuading a suicidal person not to jump from a MOA parking deck and young Andee Nestaval, who saved her sister Gabrielle when a neighbor's dog attacked.

Eleven members of the Bloomington Police Department and

three police dispatchers were awarded commendation medals for their participation in the pursuit and eventual capture of a suspect in a bank robbery.

In addition, Citizen's Commendation Medals were awarded to Rainbow Foods employee Lynn Johnson for providing CPR to a heart attack victim and Allison Graening of Waverly, Iowa, for saving a



Eleven members of the Bloomington Police Department were awarded medals for the capture of a suspected bank robber.

five-year-old boy from drowning in a hotel pool.



BLOOMINGTON FIRE CAPTAIN TOM CHEREP, left, has been a volunteer firefighter for more than 13 years. Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, who was a firefighter for the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Cherep serves as captain and fire prevention officer at Fire Station 6.

According to Cherep, the best part of his job is teaching children about fire prevention and safety. Cherep recalls a time when firefighters in his hometown of Pittsburgh came to visit his school. It left an indelible impression on the budding fire captain. Now Cherep hopes to leave the same lasting impression on the children he teaches.

Although Cherep loves his job and has always wanted to be a firefighter, he confessed to sometimes struggling with the uncertainty of not knowing when or where the next call will happen.

"Countless times we have sat down for dinner and a call comes in," Cherep said. "Let's just say, you get used to eating cold meals."

To volunteer for the Bloomington Fire Department, call 952-563-4801.



YOUR OPINION COUNTS – WE WANT TO KNOW!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE *BRIEFING*?

THE CITY'S NEWSLETTER, the *Briefing*, is published six times a year. A copy is mailed to each household and business in Bloomington. The issue you are reading costs just 25 cents to print and mail.

Add your 2¢ – Take a minute and give us your opinion.

Please give us your feedback on how you think we're doing on the *Briefing*. Your input will be used for future issues.

✓ Please check all that apply.

Where do you get your information about the City of Bloomington?

☐ Briefing

☐ Bloomington Sun-Current

☐ Minneapolis Star Tribune

☐ Cable television (The Bloomington Channel 14)

☐ Local broadcast television

☐ City of Bloomington website

☐ City flyers and brochures

☐ Other _____

How valuable is the *Briefing*?

☐ Not valuable

☐ So-so

☐ Somewhat valuable

☐ Valuable

☐ Very valuable

How often would you like to receive this newsletter?

☐ Never

☐ Once a year

☐ 4 times a year

☐ 6 times a year (present frequency)

☐ Other _____

Which feature(s) do you like best?

☐ Mayor's column

☐ Parks, recreation and arts

☐ Development updates

☐ Finance/budget (*Corporate Report*)

☐ Human Services

☐ Recycling, environment

☐ Upcoming events

☐ Other _____

Which feature(s) do you like least:

☐ Mayor's column

☐ Parks, recreation and arts

☐ Development updates

☐ Finance/budget (*Corporate Report*)

☐ Human Services

☐ Recycling, environment

☐ Upcoming events

☐ Other _____

Each *Briefing* issue is eight to 12 pages. How many pages would you like the newsletter to contain?

☐ 2 pages

☐ 4 pages

☐ 8 - 12 pages (present size)

☐ Other _____

What features or information would you like to see added?

Comments or recommendations?

RETURN YOUR COMMENTS

By phone: 952-563-8819

By mail: Janine Hill, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431

By website: Complete this survey online at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

For more information, call Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or e-mail jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

Thank you for completing this survey.